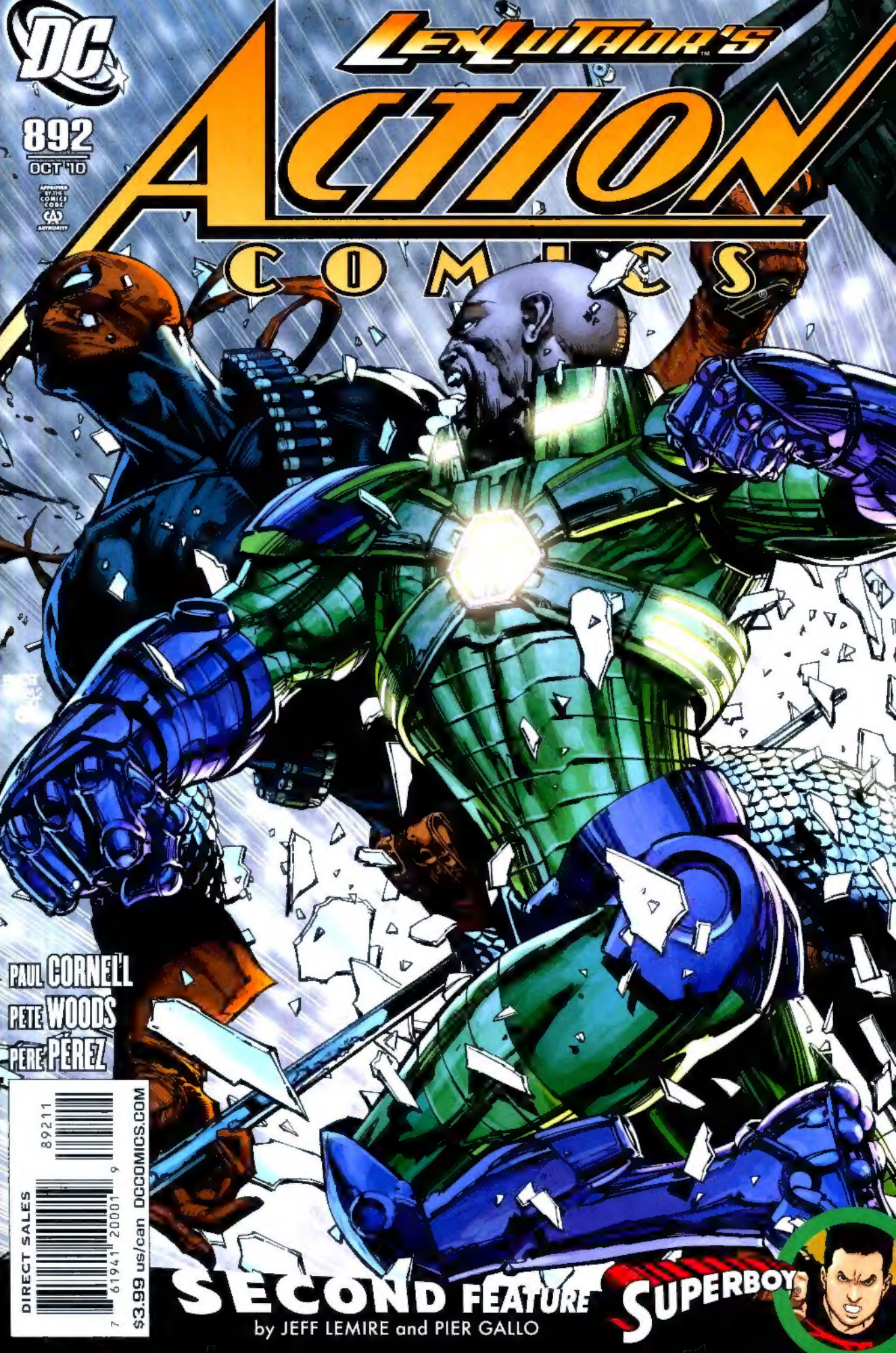
DC
LEX LUTHOR'S
ACTION
COMICS
892
OCT '10
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PAUL CORNELL
PETE WOODS
PÉRE PÉREZ
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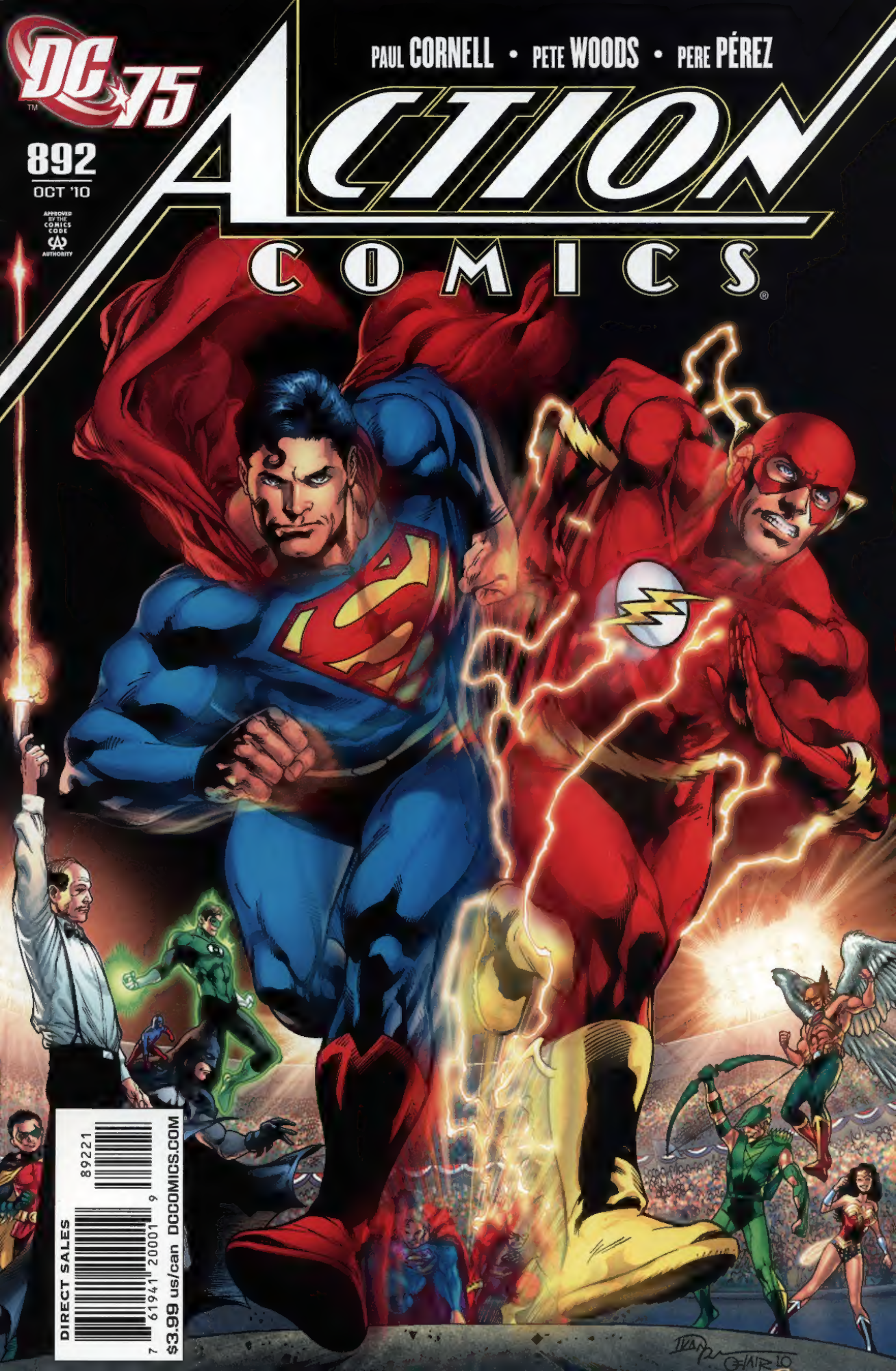
SECOND FEATURE
SUPERBOY
by JEFF LEMIRE and PIER GALLO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BORN IN SMALLVILLE BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF SUPERIOR, HE MURDERED HIS FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA AND BUILT AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS. THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL AND INSTEAD EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION...AND FUTURE RULER...

LEXLUTHOR

THE BLACK RING PART THREE

ROSS ICE SHELF, ANTARCTICA.

WELL, ANYONE WHO'S PLANNING TO AMBUSH YOU--

--THEY BETTER WEAR WHITE.

PAUL CORNELL *writer*
PETE WOODS
with PERE PÉREZ *artists*
BRAD ANDERSON *colorist*
ROB LEIGH *letterer*
DAVID FINCH, JOE WEEMS & PETER STEIGERWALD *cover*
IVAN REIS, OCLAIR ALBERT & ALEX SINCLAIR, (after Carmine Infantino and Murphy Anderson) *variant cover*
WIL MOSS *asst. editor*
MATT IDELSON *editor*
SUPERMAN *created by*
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

THE DARK RING RESIDUAL ENERGY SOURCE IS 2.1 KILOMETERS NORTH OF HERE.
THE WINDS, APPARENTLY, MEAN THAT MS. JESSOP CAN'T LAND US ANY CLOSER.
MR. WILSON WILL TAKE THE LEAD.
WATCH OUT FOR CREVASSES.
WHO IS THAT WOMAN WITH LEX? IS SHE THE ONE WHO LIVES IN THE RESIDENCE, WHO NOBODY EVER SEES?
SHE KEPT HER PARKA AND SUNGLASSES ON THE WHOLE FLIGHT.
SHE'S, erm, JUST THE BOSS'S GIRLFRIEND, ALI. IT'S A "NEED TO KNOW"--
MS. JESSOP, MR. FINCH--
--MAY I REMIND YOU, WE'RE PAID FIVE TIMES THE SALARY OF OUR OPPOSITE NUMBERS ANYWHERE.
THAT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE GOOD, IS IT?
NO, MR. SPALDING.
SHUTTING UP NOW, MR. SPALDING.
HE'D BETTER WATCH OUT FOR THOSE CREVASSES.

MISTER MIND WANTED ME TO BE HUNG UPSIDE-DOWN.*
WHY? IT'S NOT LIKE IT MAKES ONE'S BRAIN WORK DIFFERENTLY.
AS FAR AS WE KNOW.
*SEE THE LAST TWO ISSUES! --Mister Matt
MISTER MIND'S KIND OF AN EXPERT.
MAYBE THE INCREASED BLOOD FLOW HELPED HIS HALLUCINATIONS.
I CAN'T SEE HOW HE WOULD BENEFIT BY HIS ACTIONS. HIS SERVANTS COULD TELL ME LITTLE.
IF SOMEONE WAS EMPLOYING THAT CATERPILLAR, A BEING WHO ONCE CONSUMED UNIVERSES...
...I MAY FINALLY BE PLAYING AGAINST AN EQUAL--
HEY!

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

WAIT.
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WHAT, YOU THINK SOMEONE'S GOT HERE FIRST?
...NO.
NOT WITH THOSE LONG HORIZONS. AND I'VE GOT SENSORS DEPLOYED FOR ALL KINDS OF...
NO. IT'S... A FEELING.
GLAD YOU DIDN'T SEE FIT TO QUESTION THAT, LUTHOR.
YOU'RE PAYING THE BILLS--
"--LET ME GO FIRST."
LEX, WHAT--?
I'M... I'M FINE.
MY... NEED... TO HAVE THIS...
...MADE ME WANT TO STOP HIM. TO YELL THAT I SHOULD GO FIRST.
BUT I AM GREATER THAN MY NEED--

"--I'M MY INTELLECT, NOT MY...FEELINGS."
WILSON TO LUTHOR. NO SIGN OF A THREAT, BUT I'M STILL...
WHAT IS THIS?
I FEEL... PROFESSIONALLY SCARED.
EXTREMELY SO. LIKE I'M FRAMED IN A LIT DOORWAY.
FOR NO LOGICAL REASON.
FROM WHAT MY SENSORS CAN MAKE OF IT...
...THIS IS INCREDIBLE. I THINK... THE DOME IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF SPACETIME.
AN ALLOTROPE OF NORMAL SPACE. LIKE DIAMOND AND COAL ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF CARBON.
NOT THAT I CARE ABOUT THOSE FOOLS ON THE NOBEL JURY--
--BUT I SUSPECT THIS COULD SOLVE SOME FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS IN COSMOLOGY.
IT'S NOT A PRECISELY LIMITED EFFECT. IT SPREADS OUT AROUND THE DOME SHAPE...
SIR, THE CHRONOMETER--
IF THIS IS CORRECT--!
YES!

THIS HAS BEEN HERE FOR... BILLIONS OF YEARS!
JUST AS WE THOUGHT, THE BLACK RING ENERGY DISSIPATED THROUGH TIME AS WELL AS SPACE! IT HAD THE POWER TO LEAVE...DEBRIS LIKE THIS ACROSS ETERNITY!
I'M FEELING...
MAKING POCKETS OF THIS DIFFERENT SORT OF SPACETIME... LIKE BUBBLES...HOLES...
BUT WHY CAN WILSON SENSE IT?
...FEELING... HARD TO... DESCRIBE...
IT'S OFTEN BEEN THEORIZED THAT MIND IS A COMPONENT OF SPACE AND TIME...
PERHAPS FOR WHAT WE'LL TRADEMARK AS "LUTHORSPACE," THAT'S EVEN MORE SO!
...LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING COMING...
LEX!
...COMING RIGHT AT--!
AAAAHHHHH!!!
AH!

AAAHHHHH!
SIR, MR. WILSON IS PERHAPS THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED SOLDIER ON EARTH, WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN.
MIGHT I SUGGEST THAT NOW WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO--
SPALDING--!
YOU WILL SAMPLE THE DARK RING ENERGY AS PLANNED.
I WILL NOT LEAVE THIS DISCOVERY IN ANOTHER'S HANDS.
BUT, SIR--!
I'LL DEAL WITH DEATHSTROKE.
SECURITY!
BUY ME FIVE SECONDS.
GET IN HIS WAY.
SPALDING, ACTIVATE THE PORTABLE POWER SUIT.

ZLACK
SCHLAAK
HARRGHH!
SLORRRRP

FLAMMM
SIR, WHAT'RE YOU--?!
GEARRGH!
FWA

--ZAMMMMMMM
THUNK
SPALDING! GET TO THAT EQUIPMENT!
SCAN THE BLACK LANTERN ENERGY!
YOU--YOU COULD HELP HIM--!
--THOSE GUNS YOU--!
NO--

--LEX IS RIGHT.
THIS IS THE IMPORTANT THING!
I, I, ALL RIGHT
--I'LL ACTIVATE THE REMOTE DEPTH ANALYSIS AS PLANNED!
YOU STAY PUT--
--AND PROTECT US FROM--!
AHHHHH!
ALI--!

HER TOO?!
SO AT ANY MOMENT, ANY OF US--!
FORGET THAT!
WE HAVE OUR ORDERS!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR--?!
GET ANALYZING!

DADDY?!
IT'S ME, ROSE, YOUR DAUGHTER!
APPEAL TO CORE VALUES NO RESULT.
THANKS TO THE BATTLESUIT AND YOU NOT BEING YOURSELF, I CAN JUST ABOUT MATCH YOUR SPEED.
BUT I'M STRONGER, SO AS LONG AS WE WRESTLE--
AH!
TACTICAL SENSE--
--INTACT!
AT LEAST ENOUGH TO PAY ATTENTION.
WHAT THESE DARK ZONES DO TO MINDS...
HOW IT MAY HAVE AFFECTED HUMAN EVOLUTION!
WHY--
--OOPH!

IF IT WASN'T FOR THE FORCEFIELD AROUND MY HEAD--
OH. HE ACTUALLY MADE ME ANGRY.
I'M.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL THE EFFECT!
IT MUST BE--
AHHHHHHHHHHH!
--REGULATED BY STRONG EMOTION.
ANY EMOTION.
LOIS!
DON'T LET SPALDING BECOME AFRAID! HAVE HIM COMPLETE THE ANALYSIS--!
THEN GET ME OUT OF HERE!
I'LL TRY TO--
TRY TO--
OH NO

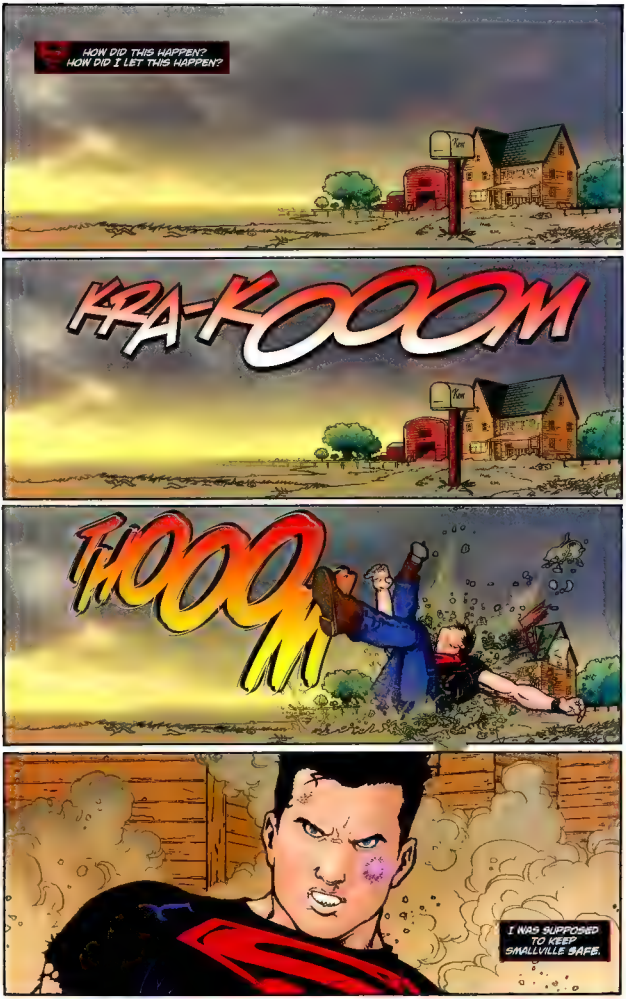
AHHHHHHH!!!
AHHHHHHHH!!!
I... WILL... NOT...
...LOSE MY INTELLECT!
AHHHHHHHH!!!
EVEN...
EVEN... IF IT KILLS--
LEX!

HE'S DONE IT!
ANALYSIS--
"--COMPLETE."
OH... THAT WAS...
REGRETTABLE.
YOU WERE ABOUT TO KILL ME.
CUT YOUR FEE IN HALF--
--AND WE'LL SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT

SPALDING, YOUR MEASURING IT... SOMEHOW ALTERED IT. LUCKILY FOR US,
LIKE TURNING A KEY IN A LOCK.
THE SPACE HERE IS NOW OF A DIFFERENT TYPE AGAIN--
--ONE THAT SEEMS TO BE DRAWING ENERGY OUT OF NORMAL SPACETIME...
...BUT NO LONGER ALTERING CONSCIOUSNESS.
WHATEVER THIS IS--
--AS WE FIND THESE SITES AND SAMPLE THE ENERGY--
--WE'LL ALSO BE CHANGING IT...

"... ALLOWING IT TO MUTATE
"BUT INTO WHAT?
"THAT MAY TURN OUT TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT WE LEARN FROM THESE SAMPLES."
STATE NAME
YOUR MASTER
"THAT MAY BE--

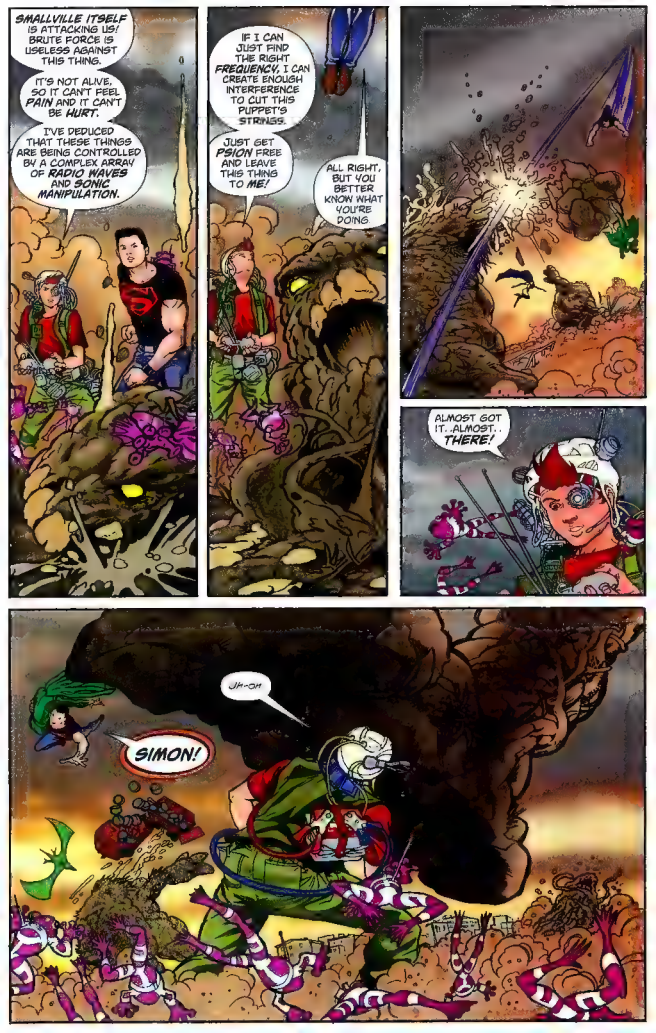
... SOMETHING WORTH KILLING FOR.
NEXT:
THE
GROOD
DELUSION


HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
HOW DID I LET THIS HAPPEN?
KRA-KOOOM
THOOM
I WAS SUPPOSED TO KEEP SMALLVILLE SAFE.

AND RIGHT NOW... I'M FAILING MISERABLY...
THOOM
DC COMICS PRESENTS
A LOOK AT THINGS TO COME IN...
SUPERBOY
JEFF LEMIRE - WRITER · PIER GALLO - ARTIST
JAMIE GRANT - COLORIST · ROB LEIGH - LETTERER · WIL MOSS - ASST. EDITOR · MATT IDELSON - EDITOR
CLONED USING THE KRYPTONIAN D.N.A. OF SUPERMAN AND THE HUMAN D.N.A. OF LEX LUTHOR, CONNER KENT FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY AS...
SUPERBOY

CONNER!
MA! GET DOWN TO THE CELLAR. LOCK THE DOORS AND NO MATTER WHAT--
--STAY THERE UNTIL I COME AND GET YOU!
BOOM
KRYPTO! YOU GO WITH MA. STAY WITH HER. PROTECT HER. UNDERSTAND?
RUFF!
NO!
GOOD BOY!
WOOF!

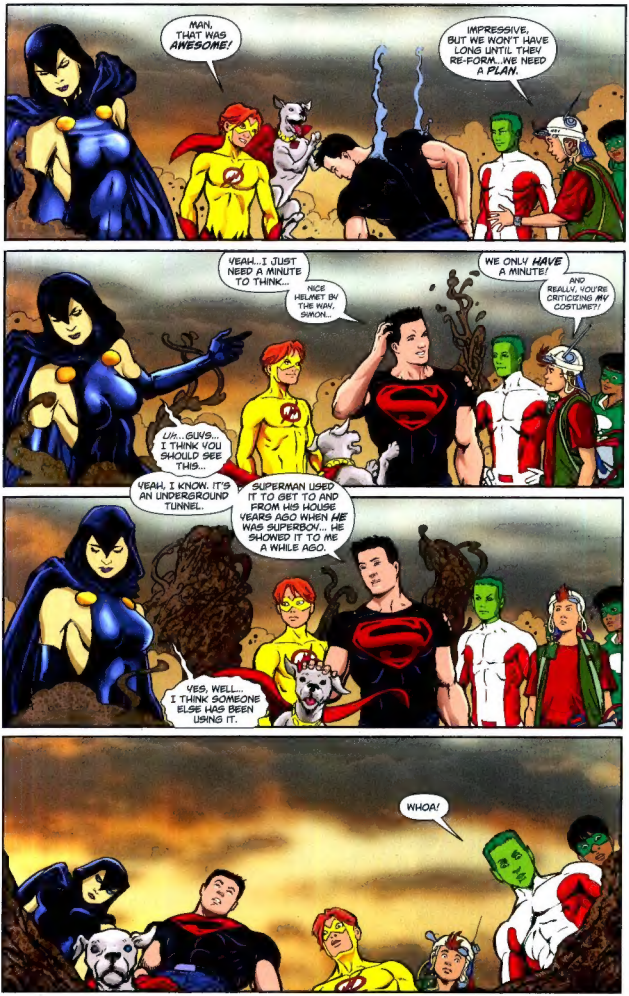
SMASH
OOF!
STAY OUT OF THE WAY, SUPERBOY, ONLY I CAN STOP THIS!
SIMON?!
GET OUTTA HERE! YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURSELF KILLED!
WHUMP


SMALLVILLE ITSELF IS ATTACKING US! BRUTE FORCE IS USELESS AGAINST THIS THING.
IT'S NOT ALIVE, SO IT CAN'T FEEL PAIN AND IT CAN'T BE HURT.
I'VE DEDUCED THAT THESE THINGS ARE BEING CONTROLLED BY A COMPLEX ARRAY OF RADIO WAVES AND SONIC MANIPULATION.
IF I CAN JUST FIND THE RIGHT FREQUENCY, I CAN CREATE ENOUGH INTERFERENCE TO CUT THIS PUPPET'S STRINGS.
JUST GET PSION FREE AND LEAVE THIS THING TO ME!
ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU BETTER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
ALMOST GOT IT..ALMOST.. THERE!
UH-OH.
SIMON!

RELAX, I GOT 'IM.
THUNK
DID YOU FIND HER?
NO, I SEARCHED THE WHOLE TOWN THREE TIMES, I COULDN'T FIND LORI LUTHOR ANYWHERE!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL. THESE GOLEMS ARE POPPING UP ALL OVER TOWN...
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE ANYMORE, WE NEED TO EVACUATE SMALLVILLE!
LOOK OUT!!
THOOM

SUPERBOY!
OKAY... I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OF THIS--
WHAM

THOOM


MAN, THAT WAS AWESOME!
IMPRESSIVE, BUT WE WON'T HAVE LONG UNTIL THEY RE-FORM...WE NEED A PLAN.
YEAH...I JUST NEED A MINUTE TO THINK...
NICE HELMET BY THE WAY, SIMON...
WE ONLY HAVE A MINUTE!
AND REALLY, YOU'RE CRITICIZING MY COSTUME?!
UH...GUYS... I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THIS...
YEAH, I KNOW. IT'S AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL.
SUPERMAN USED IT TO GET TO AND FROM HIS HOUSE YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS SUPERBOY... HE SHOWED IT TO ME A WHILE AGO.
YES, WELL... I THINK SOMEONE ELSE HAS BEEN USING IT.
WHOA!

SUPERBOY, HELP US!
GRRRRR.
LORI!!
NO! SUPERBOY, YOU MUSTN'T GO DOWN THERE!
IF YOU DO...
...SMALLVILLE WILL DIE!
SEE HOW THIS STORY BEGINS IN
SUPERBOY #1
ON SALE NOVEMBER 2010!

BALTIMORE COMIC-CON = AWESOME

Greetings, DC Nation! We've been super busy racking up the frequent flyer points this month as the 2010 DC Nation Tour has been in full swing. I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all the fans we've met recently. You guys have been incredibly supportive and cool at the shows, and I think a big part of that is the excitement we all feel about the DCU right now. We've got all the Brightest Day titles, **JMS** on Wonder Woman and Superman, **Grant Morrison's** Bat-revolution, a new Teen Titans creative team, **Paul Cornell's** epic-in-the-making run on Action Comics, a new Superboy title, new creative teams on the Batman books, a new Jimmy Olsen feature that introduces Chloe Sullivan to the DCU, a new T.H.U.N.D.E.R Agents series, more First Wave amazingness, and so much more yet to come. We really hope you loyal members of DC Nation are enjoying the ride.

Now we have one last chance to get together and talk about comics this summer and it's a doozy. Please join us for the Baltimore Comic-Con on August 28th & 29th at the Baltimore Convention Center. If you are anywhere close to this event, you can't miss it. Heck, even if you *aren't* close to this event, you can't miss it! It's no secret that I love Baltimore Comic-Con. Not only is it my hometown show, but in my opinion it's also one of the premier events a fan can go to and be able to interact with an incredible mix of comics creators. It's a fan-friendly convention in every way imaginable. I'd guarantee that you would have a fantastic time if you attend the show, but our legal team gets a little twitchy when I start tossing out guarantees in this space. So I'll just heavily imply that you'll have a fantastic time if you go.

So let's review – come see us at the Baltimore Comic-Con on August 28th & 29th at the Baltimore Convention Center. For more information please visit comicon.com/Baltimore

Be seeing you in Baltimore!

— **Ian Sattler** Senior Story Editor, DCU

DC NATION

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They call him charming... *BeastCharming.*